

REMARKS

The final Official Action continues to reject Claims 1-5 and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,778,985 to J. Everett Modisette, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,512,748 to Charles M. Hanson. Additionally, the Official Action rejects Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Modisette '985 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,680,001 to Thomas L. Paoli, et al. The Official Action continues to confirm, however, that Claims 18-22 are allowed.

Although there is no agreement as to the grounds of rejection, independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3 and 10 have been canceled and dependent Claims 2 and 4-9 have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claims 18. The amendment of dependent Claims 2 and 4-9 to depend from independent Claim 18 does not raise new issues as both independent Claim 18 and dependent Claims 2 and 4-9 have been previously considered by the Office. As such, the amendment of dependent Claims 2 and 4-9 should be substantively considered at this juncture. Since independent Claim 18 has been allowed, dependent Claims 2 and 4-9 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons that independent Claim 18 was allowed.

Independent Claim 11 has also been amended to further include the step of "determining whether a sensor which faces the second side of the target plate detects the at least one infrared image". The amendment of independent Claim 11 also does not raise any new issues since the additional step that has been added to independent Claim 11 has been previously considered in conjunction with independent Claim 18 and, indeed, was identified as one of the novel aspects of independent Claim 18 on page 9 of the Official Action. As amended independent Claim 11 includes each of the elements identified by page 9 of the Official Action to be primarily responsible for distinguishing one or more of Claims 18-22 from the prior art, it is submitted that amended independent Claim 11, as well as the claims which depend therefrom are also in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. We therefore respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted



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